

For Immediate Release

April 4, 2009

1st District Towns to Receive over \$50 Million of Emergency Education Funding from ARRA

Hartford, CT- The U.S Department of Education has announced emergency education funding has been released to help save jobs among our local teachers, maintain essential programs for low-income students and students with disabilities, and protect harmful cuts to education by stabilizing state and local budgets. The funding is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed by Congress to begin our economic recovery. ARRA will provide educational funding in the Title I and IDEA programs which helps low-income and students with disabilities.

U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01), Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, is pleased to report the First Congressional District will receive approximately \$20 million in additional Title I funding and \$30 million in IDEA funding. In addition, the State of Connecticut will receive approximately \$541 million from the state stabilization fund that will be used to stabilize state and local budgets.

“Our current economic crisis is taking a toll on our children. With teachers forced to the unemployment lines and educational funding drastically cut due to state and municipal budgets, the future of our youth is at stake. This funding will save hundreds of teaching jobs and improve quality of education.”

[Please click here for a complete breakdown of Title I and IDEA funding towns and schools in](#)

[the First District will receive from ARRA](#) .

“I am especially proud that additional funding is being allocated for the IDEA program. Every child in our nation deserves to receive a quality education”. The IDEA program provides funding to states for the education of children with disabilities. Since IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government has underfunded the program, thus forcing local municipalities to pick up the tab. Congressman Larson has sponsored the Full Funding for IDEA Now Act that would require the federal government to fully fund its share of the IDEA program.

The Department of Education also released applications and guidelines to states and municipalities for the Title I, IDEA and state stabilization programs. The Title I and IDEA funding will be distributed in two rounds, with the first round of funding available this week. The first round of funding for the state stabilization program will be available to states within two weeks of an application’s approval.

□ **“I applaud the Department of Education for understanding the importance of quickly releasing this funding. Only bold action will help our state and our nation climb out of this cavernous economic hole.”**

During the upcoming district work, Congressman Larson will focus on the economic recovery. He will host a meeting with the Chief Elected Officials and school superintendents of the cities and towns within the First Congressional District. The meeting will allow Congressman Larson to hear feedback from the perspective of our local leaders on how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will advance our schools and help alleviate local budget burdens.

□ **“This week, I will meet with the mayors, first selectman, and school superintendents of the 1st District to further discuss how the stimulus funding will improve our educational system and assist in balancing their local budgets.”**□

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